

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a functional film which comprises at least a one functional layer comprising a compressed layer of functional ~~fine~~ particles having a diameter of 10 μ m or less on a support, said method comprising ~~the steps~~ of:

applying a liquid in which the functional ~~fine~~ particles are dispersed onto a transfer support and drying the liquid to form a transfer precursor film having a layer containing the functional ~~fine~~ particles formed on the transfer support;

superposing the support on which the functional layer is to be formed and said transfer precursor film so that the support and said layer containing the functional ~~fine~~ particles are brought into contact with each other, and

compressing said layer containing the functional ~~fine~~ particles to form the compressed layer of the functional ~~fine~~ particles on the support with a roll press machine at a compression force of at least 44 N/mm²; and thereafter

releasing the transfer support from said compressed layer of the functional ~~fine~~ particles.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the support on which the functional layer is to be formed is softer than a ~~surface of the transfer support on which the layer containing the functional fine particles is to be formed~~ pencil hardness of 2H.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional ~~fine~~ particles is compressed at such a temperature that said support and said transfer support are not deformed.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said transfer support has a hard-coating layer having a pencil hardness of 2H or harder on a surface thereof on which the layer containing the functional ~~fine~~ particles is to be formed.

Claim 7 (Original): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said support is a film made of resin.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said functional ~~fine~~ particles are selected from inorganic ~~fine~~ particles.

Claim 9 (Original): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein the functional layer is selected from the group consisting of a conductive layer, an ultraviolet shielding layer, an infrared shielding layer, a magnetic layer, a ferromagnetic layer, a dielectric layer, a ferroelectric layer, an electrochromic layer, an electroluminescent layer, an insulating layer, a light-absorbing layer, a light selecting absorbing layer, a reflecting layer, a reflection preventing layer, a catalyst layer and a photocatalyst layer.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein conductive ~~fine~~ particles are used as said functional ~~fine~~ particles to form a conductive layer.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 10, wherein inorganic conductive fine particles used as said conductive fine particles are selected from the group consisting of tin oxide, indium oxide, zinc oxide, cadmium oxide, antimony-doped tin oxide (ATO), fluorine-doped tin oxide (FTO), tin-doped indium oxide (ITO) and aluminum-doped zinc oxide. ~~oxide~~ (AZO).

Claim 12 (New): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional particles is compressed with a compression force of at least 138 N/mm^2 .

Claim 13 (New): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional particles is compressed with a compression force of at least 183 N/mm^2 .

Claim 14 (New): The method for producing a functional film according to claim 1, wherein said layer containing the functional particles is compressed with a compression force of up to 1000 N/mm^2 .

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The specification is amended to correct a minor typographical error on page 37.

The Abstract is amended to improve readability.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-14 will be active.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10-11 are amended.

Claims 12-14 are added.

Support for the amendment to Claim 1 is found on page 16, line 13-17 and in original Claim 3.

Support for the amendment to Claim 2 is found on page 29, lines 23-24.

Support for new Claims 12-14 is found on page 32 of the present specification text.

The remaining amendments are intended to improve readability and are believed to be supported in the originally filed disclosure.

No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment.